

Petaluma Poultry

**Comments to the National Organic Standards Board
La Crosse, Wisconsin
June 6, 2001**

Statement supporting use of DL Methionine

We strongly support the inclusion of DL Methionine on the National List of Approved Organic Ingredients, based primarily on the following principles:

- **Organic Farming Practices Should be Sustainable**
- **Organic Farming Practices Should Include Humane Treatment of Livestock**

We feel that the use of DL Methionine is critical to meeting these two standards, which we believe, are core principles of organic agriculture.

Organic Farming Practices Should be Sustainable

As a grower and processor of natural and organic poultry, Petaluma Poultry is very concerned about the effective and efficient use of our Earth's limited natural resources. As such, we are committed to the goal of "Sustainably Farmed Chicken". We have adopted sustainable farming practices that are designed to reduce waste and inefficient use of all of our farming inputs, while leaving a minimal ecological footprint behind. We believe that organic production methods should utilize the most sustainable farming practices available.

Amino acids, specifically DL Methionine, helps provide a feed ration that is well balanced for our organic chickens, which allows them to consume organic feed in an optimum manner. If we were not allowed to use DL Methionine, we would need to over feed our chickens, using more organic soybeans than would otherwise be necessary. Obviously, this practice will in turn limit the amount of organic soybeans available to other farmers.

In addition, over-feeding leads to an increase in the excretion of nitrogen, in the form of uric acid, which converts to ammonia. Ammonia is an air pollutant that is harmful to both chickens and

their human caretakers at elevated levels.

DL Methionine not only allows us to use our limited supply of organic crops wisely, a balanced diet of organic grains will lead to a reduced environmental impact from our livestock raising activities.

Organic Farming Practices Should Include Humane Treatment of Livestock

Petaluma Poultry also believes strongly in the humane treatment of all of our chickens. We believe that the birds should be healthy and well cared for at all times.

It is a scientifically proven fact that DL Methionine enhances the health and welfare of chickens. Feathering improves which allows the bird to use its natural defenses against the elements, rather than having to rely upon medications, such as anti-biotics to fight illness and disease.

Moreover, the reduced level of ammonia that develops when DL Methionine is used, as referred to above, creates a more hospitable environment for the chickens.

We believe that continued use of DL Methionine provides us with our best opportunity to continue to farm organically in a responsible, sustainable manner. We strongly encourage you to include DL Methionine on the National List of Approved Materials.

Randy Duranceau
Division Manager
Petaluma Poultry